

I. The Attack of the Adversary (14)

- A. The adversary's target - “There was a little city, with few men in it...”
- B. The adversary's terror - “...and a great king came against it...”
- C. The adversary's tactics - “...and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it.”

II. The Work of the Wise Man (15a-15b)

A. The description of the man (15a)

1. He was outwardly impoverished - “But there was found in it a poor...man...”

2 Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

Isa 53:2-3 - “For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

2. He was inwardly empowered - “But there was found in it a...wise man”

1 Cor. 1:24, 30 - “but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God... (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God...”

Col. 2:2-3 - “That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

B. The deliverance of the man (15b) - “...and he by his wisdom delivered the city.”

III. The Foolishness of Those Freed (16-18)

- A. Their triumph - **They had experienced a great deliverance through the poor, wise man.**
- B. Their treasure - **The priceless wise man continued to live among them.**
- C. Their trouble (15c) - “...yet no one remembered that poor man.”
- D. The tears (16) - “But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.”
- E. Their tragedy (17-18) - “The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. 18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.”